

Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Concerned that some seabird species, notably albatrosses and petrels, are threatened with global extinction,

Mindful that fishing for southern bluefin tuna can also cause incidental harm to other species such as sea turtles and sharks,

Recalling the definition of ecologically related species in Article 2 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Further recalling the requirement in Article 5(2) of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna that the Parties shall expeditiously provide to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna data on, *inter alia*, ecologically related species.

Determined to mitigate incidental harm to ecologically related species caused by fishing for southern bluefin tuna,

Noting the importance of harmonising conservation and management measures with other organisations responsible for managing international fisheries, as agreed at the Kobe Meeting of Joint Tuna RFMOs on 26 January 2007,

Reaffirming the recommendation at the seventh meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) held in Tokyo from 3 to 6 July 2007, that Members and Cooperating Non-Members will provide national reports on their interactions with ecologically related species in southern bluefin tuna fisheries to the ERSWG,

Recommends that:

1. Members and Cooperating Non-Members will, to the extent possible, implement the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds), the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), and the FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations (FAO-Sea turtles), if they have not already done so.
2. Members and Cooperating Non-Members will comply with all current binding and recommendatory measures aimed at the protection of ecologically related species, including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks, from fishing, which are adopted from time to time:
 - a) by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, when fishing in its Convention area, and

- b) by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, when fishing in its Convention area,

irrespective of whether the Member or Cooperating Non-Member concerned is a member of the relevant Commission or otherwise cooperates with it.

3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members will collect and report data on ecologically related species to the Extended Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies as appropriate, including the Ecologically Related Species Working Group. Further, the undertaking described in paragraph 2 will include a commitment to comply with measures adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission on the collection and reporting of data in relation to ecologically related species. Data confidentiality shall be protected under the rules that apply in those Commissions.

4. Members and Cooperating Non-Members will report annually to the Compliance Committee of the Extended Commission on the action they have taken pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this recommendation.

5. The Secretariat of the CCSBT is authorised to collect and exchange relevant data concerning ecologically related species with the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the Secretariat of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

6. The Extended Commission will review the operation of this Recommendation with a view to enhancing the protection of ecologically related species from the impacts of fishing for southern bluefin tuna.

7. The Extended Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies as appropriate will undertake an assessment of the risks to ecologically related species posed by fishing for southern bluefin tuna. The Extended Commission will consider how these risks are mitigated by the adoption of measures described at section 2, and will consider whether any additional measures to mitigate risk are required.